

In the claims

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Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26. (original) An electronic safe system comprising:  
a plurality of electronic safes; and  
a wireless network connecting said plurality of safes.

27. (original) The electronic safe system of claim 26 further comprising:  
a communications node for providing wireless communications to an off site host system.

28. (original) The electronic safe system of claim 27 wherein the off site host system  
remotely monitors the plurality of electronic safes.

29. (original) The electronic safe system of claim 27 wherein the communications node  
comprises a wireless modem.

30. (original) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein the wireless network  
connects the plurality of safes to an external network.

Claims 31-73 (canceled).

74. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the safes  
comprises:

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a bill acceptor for accepting both cash deposits and non-cash deposits;  
a controller for controlling the operation of the bill acceptor, and for receiving an  
indication of the value of the non-cash deposits; and  
a cassette for storing both the cash deposits and the non-cash deposits.

75. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 74 wherein said at least one of the safes  
further comprises a data entry apparatus for entering the value of the non-cash deposits, and

wherein the data entry apparatus transmits the indication of the value of the non-cash deposits to the controller.

76. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 75 wherein the indication of the value of the non-cash deposits is transmitted from a point of sale terminal.

77. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 75 wherein the indication identifies the type of the non-cash deposit.

78. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 74 wherein the non-cash deposit comprises an envelope.

79. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 78 wherein the envelope contains a check.

80. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 78 wherein the envelope contains a currency note which cannot be accepted as a cash deposit.

81. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 78 wherein the envelope identifies the type of non-cash deposit.

82. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 78 wherein the envelope identifies the amount of the non-cash deposit.

83. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 74 wherein the bill acceptor is further for accepting an identifying tag.

84. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 83 wherein the identifying tag identifies the value of the non-cash deposit.

85. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 83 wherein the identifying tag identifies the type of non-cash deposit.

86. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 74 wherein the non-cash deposit comprises a printed identification slip which identifies a change in a cashier managed event.

87. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the electronic safes comprises:

means for accepting and storing deposits;

means for communicating with an identification tag, said identification tag identifying a person interacting with the electronic safe.

88. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 87 wherein the identification tag identifies the person interacting with electronic safe as someone making a deposit into the safe, withdrawing cash from the safe, or requesting a report to be generated by the safe.

89. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 87 wherein the identification tag is for wearing around the wrist of the person placing deposits.

90. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 87 wherein the means for communicating periodically transmits a polling signal to determine the presence of the identification tag.

91. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 87 wherein the means for communicating includes a transmitter, and power for the identification tag is supplied from the transmitter.

92. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 87 wherein the identification tag functions as an electronic key.

93. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 87 wherein the means for communicating utilizes radio frequency (RF) technology to communicate with the identification tag.

94. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the electronic safes comprises:

means for accepting and storing deposits; and

means for communicating with a wireless portable device, said wireless portable device for configuring the safe.

95. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 94 wherein the means for communicating utilizes infrared communication to communicate with the wireless portable device.

96. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 94 wherein the portable device causes the electronic safe to generate reports.

97. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 94 wherein the portable device is for updating operating code of the electronic safe.

98. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 97 wherein the portable device is further for initiating the printing of the automatically generated reports.

99. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the electronic safes comprises:

means for accepting deposits;

a cassette for storing the deposits; and

means for predicting when the cassette will be full of deposits.

100. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the electronic safes comprises:

means for accepting deposits;

means for storing deposits; and

means for automatically generating and storing reports detailing the operation of the electronic safe during a predetermined period.

101. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 100 further comprising means for printing the stored reports when instructed by an authorized person.

102. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 100 wherein the reports include the amount of deposits per shift.

103. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 100 wherein the reports include the amount of deposits per cashier over a predetermined period of time.

104. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein at least one of the electronic safes comprises:

means for accepting deposits;

means for storing deposits; and

a controller for controlling the operation of the safe, said controller for tracking the number of hours worked by an employee.

105. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 104 wherein the employee provides an indication to the electronic safe when the employee arrives at work and when the employee leaves work.

106. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 105 wherein the employee provides the indication by entering an identification number on an input device of the electronic safe.

107. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 104 wherein the controller tracks the number of hours worked by the employee by detecting an identification tag attached to the employee.

108. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 104 further comprising means for generating periodic reports of the number of hours worked.

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109. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of electronic safes receive currency data updates through the wireless network.

110. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 109 wherein the currency data updates include counterfeiting data.

111. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 109 wherein the currency data updates includes data relating to new currency.

112. (new) The electronic safe system of claim 27 wherein the host system provides currency data updates to the plurality of electronic safes through the wireless network.